

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for enabling access to a WLAN communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a WLAN access request from a WLAN communication device;

sending an access request for subscription information back to the WLAN communication device;

during the sending step, initiating a charging call using a second communication system by sending a access request message in a standard protocol for the second communication system;

receiving a first authentication request from the second communication system;

forwarding a second authentication request to the WLAN communication device using the information received from the second communication system;

receiving a first authentication response from the WLAN communication device by a billing controller;

forwarding a second authentication response information received ~~from the WLAN communication device~~ by the billing controller to a base station in the second communication system via a communication system interface;

~~setting up~~ making the charging call, initiated in the initiating step, via a second communication system in response to the WLAN access request using second communication system subscription information associated with the WLAN communication device, wherein the charging call enables a proportion of the cost of the call as billed to the user via the subscriber information to be allocated to a party other than the provider of the communication system resource, i.e. the WLAN operator; and enabling access to the WLAN communication system in response to the setting up of the charging call.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of sending is performed in parallel with the step of initiating and before the step of receiving an authentication request by the second communication system, such that the forwarding response step is accomplished before a timeout of the authentication process by the second communication system.

3. (original) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of selecting the destination of the charging call depending on the requested service to be accessed.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of selecting the duration of the charging call depending on the requested service to be accessed.

5. (original) The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the charging call is a premium rate call.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of determining the duration of the charging call and the step of discontinuing the charging call when the predetermined duration has expired.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of determining the duration of the permitted WLAN access, and the step of discontinuing access once the allowed duration has expired.

8. (original) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of determining magnitude of permitted data transfer during WLAN access and the step of discontinuing access once permitted data transfer has occurred.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in any preceding claim, also comprising the step of initiating a new charging call in respect of additional access in response to a request for additional access received from the WLAN device.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for enabling access to a WLAN communication system comprising:

means for receiving a WLAN access request from a WLAN communication device;

means for sending an access request for identity information back to the WLAN communication device;

means for initiating a charging call using a second communication system by sending a access request message in a standard protocol for the second communication system, during the time that the means for sending sends the access request for identity information back to the WLAN communication device;

means for receiving a first authentication request from the second communication system;

means for forwarding a second authentication request to the WLAN communication device using the information received from the second communication system;

~~means a billing controller~~ for receiving a first authentication response from the WLAN communication device;

means for forwarding a second authentication response information received ~~from the WLAN communication device~~ by the billing controller to a base station in the second communication system via a communication system interface;

means for ~~setting up~~ making the charging call, initiated by the means for initiating a charging call, via a second communication system in response to the WLAN access request using second communication system subscription information associated with the WLAN communication device, wherein the charging call enables a proportion of the cost of the call as billed to the user via the subscriber information to be allocated to a party other than the provider of the communication system resource, i.e. the WLAN operator; and
means for enabling access to the WLAN communication system in response to the setting up of the charging call.

11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~also comprising the step of providing subscription authentication information, to enable a charging call for the WLAN access to be set up in the second communication system using the subscription authentication information~~ wherein the second communication system subscription information is subscription authentication information.